

STOW-INFO

Newsletter of the Stow Historical Society

February 2000

Stow, Massachusetts

PICTURES DON'T LIE, BUT STORIES CAN BE S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-D

You are invited to hear the stories behind the photographs in the newly published Stow Picture Book at a meeting of the Stow Historical Society on Friday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the old Town Hall.

More than 200 photographs are included in this latest book on Stow history, and each one has more tales to be told. Taking part in the program will be Ray Frost, Alan Kattelle, John Makey, Jim and Betty Sauta, Don Rising and Dwight Sipler.

"Photos don't lie, but anecdotes can be embellished, and we have found a few residents known for story telling expertise, says Barbara Sipler, president of the Historical Society.

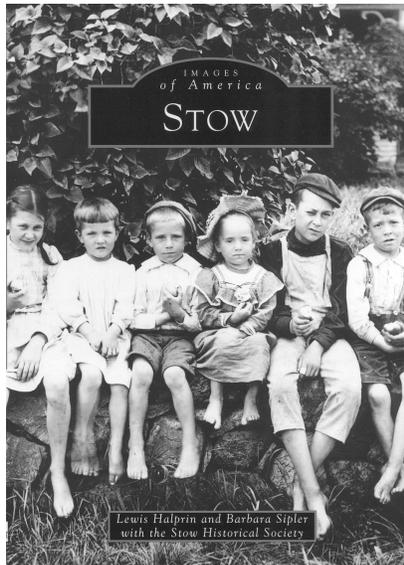
Refreshments will be served. The public is invited, and the new book will be available for sale.

The book, published by Arcadia Publishing Company, was released in November. Arcadia has published more than 600 similar books from towns across America. Lew Halprin and Barbara Sipler, co-editors, had the editorial help of Karen Gray and Linda Dodge in putting the book together.

The majority of the photographs came from the Stow Historical Society collection housed in the Stow Town Vault, and the Ancient Documents Committee assisted in the selection of these photos. Additional photographs were supplied by Jonathan Daisy, Maynard Historical Society, Linda Mikoski, Herb Potter, Ray Frost, Betty Sauta, Bobby Head, Stow Historical Commission, Jean Lynch, Don MacPherson, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Dick Martin, Doug Trefry, Linda Mansfield, the Warren family, Susan Maxfield, Stow Conservation Trust, and the Beacon Villager.

The Stow Historical Society receives all proceeds from the books on sale at this time at the Town

Building, Warren Insurance Agency, Minute Man Air Field, Community National Bank, and Derby Orchard. Applefield Farm and the Pilot Grove Shop also sold the books until closing for the season. Two book signings were held before Christmas at the Stow Post Office. Call-a-Copy printing center in Maynard donated a portion of its sale proceeds to the society.



NEW BOOK -- Captures photo memories of an old New England village.

"We are indebted to the townspeople who combed their private collections and supplied new photographs for this book, and all photos will be returned after computer scanning," Sipler stated. "We now have a fine collection, but, of course, we are always looking for new treasures and ask residents to keep looking for old photos, documents and other memorabilia for the Historical Society collection.

SHIRLEY SHAKER HISTORY PROGRAM SCHEDULED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 16

An introduction to the Shirley Shaker Community will be the focus of the Minuteman Regional Historical Societies at 1 p.m., Sunday, April 16, at The United Church of Shirley. The meeting is open to all area historical societies.

The Minuteman group is an informal organization of historical societies from towns which sent Minutemen to Concord and Lexington in 1775. The group meets once a year on the Sunday afternoon nearest Patriot's Day and shares information about each town and organization.

There will be an introduction to the Shaker community in picture, story and song and a demonstration of Shaker style basket making. Shaker refreshments will be served, and it is hoped that the Shaker site can be visited in small groups by van. The Shaker buildings and site are now part of the Massachusetts Correctional Facility.

FACELIFT CONTINUES AT TOWN HALL

Town Hall sparkles these days as a result of its continuing facelift through the efforts of the Town Hall Improvement Committee.

The improved acoustics in the main hall are most noticeable. This was made possible by a coating on the ceiling of echo-suppressing material coupled with new light fixtures and ceiling fans. Other new lighting and electrical work throughout the building also has been done.

The attics and furnace room have been cleaned out, and the fire horn disconnected. The balcony has a new look with stairs instead of the sloping ramp in the center, and this area can now seat 70. A second chair cart was purchased, and the Heron family donated a clock for the main hall.

A quilt with the Town Hall logo in the center will be constructed by a team of Stow's talented quilters and will hang in the main hall. Clare Tozeski is heading this project.

And to top off these improvements, the floor in the downstairs meeting room has been sanded and refinished. The Stow Historical Society has offered to "adopt" this room and is planning swags for the two windows in this room along with framed photographs and other displays from the Town Vault for the walls and perimeter of the room. The room will be a most attractive meeting place for town organizations.

At the last Town Meeting \$7,500 was approved and used for these improvements. George Scraggs, Newell Dearborn and Lew Halprin have provided the muscle for these tasks. At the special Town Meeting on February 16, another \$2,000 will be asked for continued improvements. Among the improvements suggested are storage cabinets for the main hall, fixing windows, overhead projector, folding tables and captain chairs for the downstairs meeting table.

The beautifully rebuilt kitchen on the lower level, funded by a generous gift to the Stow Historical Society, is beginning to be used more and more as the finishing touches go on the rest of the building.

ANCIENTS STILL GOING STRONG

Stow can now boast of an exemplary collection of old photographs in the Town Vault as a result of the influx of pictures for the new Stow Picture Book. The Ancient Documents Committee, now in its 27th year, is charged with the acquisition, preservation and cataloguing of town records and will spend several months putting this collection in order. The new photographs will be scanned and stored as computer files.

Meeting dates for the Ancient Documents Committee are February 16, March 1, March 15, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17, June 7, and June 21. All meetings are at 9:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room of the Town Building with the exception of February 16 which has been scheduled at 1:30 p.m.

Town Clerk Frannie Warren was the founder of the Ancient Documents Committee which was established by unanimous vote of the 1973 Town Meeting. At the present time, members, associate members and volunteers are: Barbara Sipler, chair, Karen Gray, Lew Halprin, Linda Dodge, Robert Walrath, Alice Grady, Bobby Head, Jody Newman, Katrin Hardikar, Thomas Oller, Carolyn Hastings and Ginger Pearlman.

Another task for the committee this winter will be the selection of photographs for display. The committee will look into reproduction processes for old photographs, appropriate framing if needed, and then display techniques.

Volunteers are welcome to call Barbara Sipler, 897-5996.

<p>We invite you to join the Stow Historical Society, founded in 1961. Please mail your check to support this organization, dedicated to keeping pride in Stow, an old New England Village.</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:</p>		<p>Name _____</p>
	<p>Single/Couple</p>	<p>\$10 and \$12</p>	<p>Address _____</p>
	<p>Retired</p>	<p>\$5 and \$7</p>	<p>Town _____</p>
	<p>Associate</p>	<p>\$5 and \$7</p>	<p>Telephone _____</p>
	<p>Lifetime</p>	<p>\$100</p>	
<p>Please mail your check and this form to Dorothy Sonnichsen, 101 Packard Rd., Stow, MA 01775</p>			

STOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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